



Rhode Island Raised Meat Cooperative

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Our Mission: To promote and ensure the preservation of our agricultural lands, our rural economy, and our agrarian way of life by creating an organization that will secure a viable infrastructure and provide for the efficient and sustainable production, processing and marketing of quality, value added, locally produced meats in the State of Rhode Island.

We are now officially: **Rhode Island Raised Meat Cooperative!**

A little background information for those of you who haven't heard...

The Cooperative Steering Committee, comprised of farmers from all over RI, was formed in October 2005 to move the Cooperative forward. Since then, we have organized three well attended meetings in Southern, Eastern and Northern Rhode Island. The Committee took the enthusiastic ideas from those meetings and completed the following to benefit local livestock producers:

- **Formed the Business**
 1. Retained attorney Mark Tourgee of Iman, Tourgee & Williamson.
 2. Successfully filed with the Secretary of State to create and incorporate **The RI Raised Meat Cooperative, Inc.**
 3. Created preliminary By-Laws for the Cooperative, working with First Pioneer Farm Credit.
- **Rhode Island Department of Health**
 1. Met with and discussed standards and direct marketing capabilities for local producers.
 2. Several Farms have since been approved for retail and Farmer's Market sales.
- **RI Raised Meat Cooperative Funding**
 1. Received and completed Feasibility Grant showing overwhelming demand for Rhode Island raised meat.
 2. Filed Grants with RI Rural Development Council and the Rhode Island Foundation to assist with our start-up expenses.
- **Processing Facilities**
 1. Surveyed processing plants in the region with an eye on pooling Rhode Island Raised livestock.
 2. Discussed the possibility of a local facility in the near future.

In order to move forward we need to know how many animals you will consider processing this year and if possible, over the course of the next 5 years. Bear in mind that no one is holding you to this and all the data will be kept confidential. Without your numbers this Cooperative is fruitless.

We have provided a chart for you to make this as simple as possible. **Your numbers are integral to the success of the Coop.** Once the numbers are compiled we will have another meeting to update everyone. Please fill out the form, fold it in half, and stick it in the mail today. And feel free to call any one of the Committee Members listed below for more information.

Thank you in advance for your time on this,

Don Minto, RIRMC President, Watson Farm, Jamestown	423 0005
Kim Coulter, Storey Hill Cattle Co, Charlestown	364-5063
Kevin Bouthillette, RIRMC VP, Blackbird Farm, Smithfield	742-6990
Valda Aponak, RIRMC Treasurer, Aponik Farm, Exeter	295-4363
Will Wright, West Greenwich	392-3469
Danielle Minto, RIRMC Secretary, Beaverhead Farm, Jamestown	423-1103
Tom Sandham, Eastern RI Conservation District, Tiverton	624-7490

Name: _____

Farm: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

# of Potential Animals Processed 2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Beef Steer				
Cows for Beef Burger				
Hogs				
Lamb				
Goat				
Poultry:				
Turkey				
Broilers				
Duck				

Please spread the word to any livestock producers you know! And add anyone who would like to be a part of the Cooperative below.

Thank you

Farm	Name	Address	Phone	Email
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